



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/827,519	04/06/2001	Kevin P. Nasman	3197-000009	6140
27572	7590	08/04/2005	EXAMINER	
HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C. P.O. BOX 828 BLOOMFIELD HILLS, MI 48303			PHAM, THOMAS K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2121	
DATE MAILED: 08/04/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/827,519

Applicant(s)

NASMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Thomas K. Pham

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7-11,14,16-18 and 20-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,7-11,14,16-18 and 20-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

RD

Response to Amendment

1. This action is in response to request for continued examination (RCE) filed on 06/16/2005.

Quotations of U.S. Code Title 35

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2121

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. Claims 1, 4, 7-11, 14 and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,195,045 ("Keane") in view of U.S. Patent 6,131,125 ("Rostoker").

Regarding claim 1

Keane teaches a communications interface system for communicating information in a plasma processing system, comprising: a power delivery system component including a communication interface for communicating information that complies with a first protocol (see FIG. 1 shows Matching Network 10 includes a communication interface 55 for communicating information to the user interface 2400).

Keane does not teach a portable device including a coprocessor and a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media, coupled between a POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information there between, the second communication interface communicating information that complies with a second protocol, the portable device translating the information between the first protocol and the second protocol and being detachable from the POD interface and the second communication interface; a first communication link for coupling the POD interface to the portable device; and a second communication link for coupling the portable device to the second communication interface.

However, Rostoker teaches a portable device (see FIG. 3A, element 64) including a coprocessor (see FIG. 7 element 114) and a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media (see col. 7 lines 50-53, "flash memory"),

Art Unit: 2121

coupled between a POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information therebetween (see FIG. 3A and 3B and col. 5 lines 22-28), the second communication interface communicating information that complies with a second protocol, the portable device translating the information between the first protocol and the second protocol and being detachable from the POD interface and the second communication interface (see FIG. 3A and 3B and col. 5 lines 28-41); a first communication link for coupling the POD interface to the portable device (see FIG. 3A link 76 and connector 78); and a second communication link for coupling the portable device to the second communication interface (see FIG. 3A link 80 and connector 82) for the purpose of providing communication between two or more digital electronic device with two or more communication protocols (see col. 2 line 66 to col. 3 line 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the smart communication device of Rostoker with the communication interface of Keane because it would provide for the purpose of providing communication between two or more digital electronic device with two or more communication protocols.

Regarding claim 11

Keane teaches a communications interface system for a plasma generator system, comprising: a power delivery system component including a communication interface for communicating information that complies with a first protocol (see FIG. 1 shows Matching Network 10 includes a communication interface 55 for communicating information to the user interface 2400).

Keane does not teach a portable device including a coprocessor and a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media, coupled between a POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information

Art Unit: 2121

there between, the second communication interface communicating information that complies with a second protocol, the portable device translating the information between the first protocol and the second protocol and being detachable from the POD interface and the second communication interface; a first communication link for coupling the POD interface to the portable device; and a second communication link for coupling the portable device to the second communication interface.

However, Rostoker teaches a portable device (see FIG. 3A, element 64) including a coprocessor (see FIG. 7 element 114) and a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media (see col. 7 lines 50-53, "flash memory"), coupled between a POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information therebetween (see FIG. 3A and 3B and col. 5 lines 22-28), the second communication interface communicating information that complies with a second protocol, the portable device translating the information between the first protocol and the second protocol and being detachable from the POD interface and the second communication interface (see FIG. 3A and 3B and col. 5 lines 28-41); a first communication link for coupling the POD interface to the portable device (see FIG. 3A link 76 and connector 78); and a second communication link for coupling the portable device to the second communication interface (see FIG. 3A link 80 and connector 82) for the purpose of providing communication between two or more digital electronic device with two or more communication protocols (see col. 2 line 66 to col. 3 line 1).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the smart communication device of Rostoker with the communication

Art Unit: 2121

interface of Keane because it would provide for the purpose of providing communication between two or more digital electronic device with two or more communication protocols.

Regarding claim 4

Rostoker teaches the second protocol is selected from the group of analog interface, USB, Ethernet, Devicenet, Profibus, Modbus, and Infrared Transceiver (see FIG. 3B).

Regarding claims 7 and 16

Rostoker teaches the portable device includes a plurality of interface ports for interfacing with more than one communication interface (see FIG. 7).

Regarding claims 8 and 14

Rostoker teaches the portable device further includes a coprocessor (see FIG. 7 element 114).

Regarding claim 9

Keane and Rostoker do not teach the second communication interface is a customer interface. However, Rostoker teaches the second interface could be couple to an Ethernet network (see FIG. 3B) for the communicating to a network which can include a customer network. Therefore, it would have obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the second interface of Rostoker could be a connection to a network that is necessary to a user's network configuration and environment.

Regarding claims 10 and 17

Keane teaches the power delivery system component is selected from the group of V/I probes, generators, matching networks, and power amplifiers (see FIG. 1 "Matching Network 10").

Art Unit: 2121

5. Claims 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,195,045 ("Keane") in view of U.S. Patent 6,269,252 ("Hutchings").

Regarding claim 18

Keane teaches a communication s interface system for communicating information in a plasma processing system, comprising: a generator assembly including a communication interface conforming to a first protocol for communicating information, the communication interface including a communication port for receiving communication signals (see FIG. 1 shows Matching Network 10 includes a communication interface 55 for communicating information to the user interface 2400).

Keane does not teach a first communication link having a first end detachably coupled to a POD interface communication port; an interface portable device including a coprocessor and a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media detachably coupled between the POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information therebetween, the second communication interface conforming to a second protocol, the interface portable device converting information flowing between the POD interface and the second communication interface such that information flowing to the second communication interface conforms to the second protocol and information flowing to the POD interface conforms to the first protocol; and a second communication link for detachably coupling the portable device to the second communication interface.

However, Hutchings teaches a first communication link having a first end detachably coupled to a POD interface communication port (see FIG. 1 and col. 2 lines 45-56, "bridging apparatus 10"); an interface portable device including a coprocessor and a mass storage device

Art Unit: 2121

selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media (see FIG. 2, "mass storage 38") detachably coupled between the POD interface and a second communication interface for communicating information therebetween (see col. 2 line 62 to col. 3 lines 17), the second communication interface conforming to a second protocol, the interface portable device converting information flowing between the POD interface and the second communication interface such that information flowing to the second communication interface conforms to the second protocol and information flowing to the POD interface conforms to the first protocol (see col. 3 lines 18-31); and a second communication link for detachably coupling the portable device to the second communication interface (see FIG. 1, "interfaces 18a-18n") for the purpose of connecting two or more communications networks together to enable communication between the networks (see col. 1 lines 18-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the communication interface of Hutchings with the communication interface of Keane because it would provide for the purpose of connecting two or more communications networks together to enable communication between the networks.

6. Claims 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,359,250 ("Blonigan") in view of U.S. Patent 6,269,252 ("Hutchings").

Regarding claim 21

Blonigan teaches a communication s interface system for communicating information in a plasma processing system, comprising: a power delivery system component further comprising: a sensor that provides sensor data (col. 3 lines 52-57); a control system (col. 3 lines 57-59).

Blonigan does not teach a POD interface that communicates using a first protocol and that is in communication with the data and control system; a plurality of portable devices, wherein each one of the portable devices can connect between the POD interface and only one of the plurality of types of interfaces and is adapted to translate between the first protocol and only one of the plurality of protocols, wherein a selected one of the plurality devices is connected between the POD interface and the selected one of the plurality of types of interfaces to establish communication between the first protocol and the selected one of the plurality of protocols.

However, Hutchings teaches a POD interface that communicates using a first protocol and that is in communication with the data and control system (see FIG. 1, “user interface 16” communicates with first protocol of “user device 24”); a plurality of portable devices (see FIG. 1, “network 20a-20n” and col. 3 lines 13-15), wherein each one of the portable devices can connect between the POD interface and only one of the plurality of types of interfaces and is adapted to translate between the first protocol and only one of the plurality of protocols (see FIG. 1 and col. 2 lines 45-56, “bridging apparatus 10”), wherein a selected one of the plurality devices is connected between the POD interface and the selected one of the plurality of types of interfaces to establish communication between the first protocol and the selected one of the plurality of protocols (see col. 3 lines 18-31) for the purpose of connecting two or more communications networks together to enable communication between the networks (see col. 1 lines 18-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the communication interface of Hutchings with the power delivery

Art Unit: 2121

system of Blonigan because it would provide for the purpose of connecting two or more communications networks together to enable communication between the networks.

Regarding claim 20

Hutchings teaches the portable device includes a plurality of interface ports for interfacing with more than one communication interface (see FIG. 1 “interfaces 18a-18n”).

Regarding claim 22

Hutchings teaches a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media (see FIG. 2, “mass storage 38”).

Regarding claim 23

Hutchings teaches each of the plurality of portable devices further includes a coprocessor (see FIG. 2, “processor 30”).

Regarding claim 24

Hutchings teaches each of the plurality of portable devices includes a plurality of interface ports that communicate using the first protocol (see FIG. 1, “interfaces 18a-18n”).

Regarding claim 25

Blonigan teaches the power delivery system component is selected from a group consisting of V/I probes, generators, matching networks, and power amplifiers (see FIG. 2 “Matching Networks 400 and 226”):

Response to Arguments

Applicant argues that prior art does not include a mass storage device selected from the group of CD-ROMs, FlashCards, Optical Disks, and magnetic media.

In response to applicant's arguments prior art Rostoker et al. (USPN 6,131,125) teaches communication protocol drivers can be download into a RAM memory or to a "flash memory" as described in column 7 lines 50-53.

Prior art Hutchings et al. (USPN 6,269,252) teaches a bridge includes a processor and also coupled to a mass storage unit. Therefore, the limitations is taught by the reference.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner *Thomas Pham*; whose telephone number is (571) 272-3689, Monday - Thursday from 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM EST or contact Supervisor *Mr. Anthony Knight* at (571) 272-3687.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to: **Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450**. Responses may also be faxed to the **official fax number (571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thomas Pham
Patent Examiner

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thy Pham', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

July 25, 2005